



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Room 411 South, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

February 13, 2002
8:15 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the February 13, 2002 meeting of the Joint Legislative Council. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting and a copy of the registration form listing those who attended. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/2000studies.htm>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call and Remarks by Senator Risser and Introduction of Main Speaker

Co-Chair Risser called the meeting to order. He said the roll would be left open and members recorded as they arrived.

Co-Chair Risser noted that this is the second “Food for Thought” meeting of the Joint Legislative Council. He announced that the next meeting of the Council would be March 6. At the next meeting, the Council would finish the discussion of the Navigable Waters study and review the study areas that have been suggested for the upcoming selection of interim studies.

He next introduced Dr. Harold Hodgkinson, Director of the Center for Demographic Policy, Institute for Education Leadership in Washington, D.C. He said they had asked Dr. Hodgkinson to join the Council today and brief the members on the impact of demographics on Wisconsin issues and provide some insight into the issues the Legislature will need to address in the next biennium. Co-Chair Risser said that Dr. Hodgkinson’s remarks will complete the message the Council received from Dr. Sohn at the October meeting (our economy depends on people).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:

Sen. Fred A. Risser and Rep. Kitty Rhoades, Co-Chairs; Sens.
James Baumgart, Judy Robson and David Zien; and Reps. Gregory
Huber, Scott R. Jensen, Lee Meyerhofer and Jeff Stone.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
EXCUSED:

Sens. Brian Burke, Charles Chvala, Alberta Darling, Gary George, Richard Grobschmidt, Mary Panzer and Robert Welch; and Reps. Spencer Black, Peter Bock, Steven Foti, Stephen Freese, John Gard and Michael Lehman.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT:

Terry C. Anderson, Director; Laura Rose, Deputy Director; Kathy Annen, Philip G. Cardis, Pat Coakley, Don Dyke, Joyce Kiel, Rachel Letzing, Kelly Mautz, Mary Offerdahl, Mark Patronskey, John Stolzenberg, Joshua Todd, Wendy Ulrich, Tracey Uselman and Russ Whitesel, Legislative Council staff.

APPEARANCE:

Dr. Harold Hodgkinson, Director, Center for Demographic Policy, Washington, D.C.

Presentation by Dr. Harold Hodgkinson

Dr. Hodgkinson gave a very informative presentation on how demographics affect Wisconsin issues both in the present and future. He shared with the Council several tables and graphs which illustrated how Wisconsin ranks among the country and explained how many factors affected those rankings (i.e., population, climate, income, etc.). He stated that within 10 to 15 years Wisconsin would be confronted with the situation of having as many elderly as young.

Dr. Hodgkinson suggested that this might be something to start thinking about, especially in the area of health care (he used the example of small, rural communities having the ability to transport elderly patients to hospitals). His handout, "Wisconsin Metro Areas: (2,000)," illustrated rankings for Wisconsin metropolitan areas in categories such as cost of living, transportation, jobs, education, climate, crime, arts, health care and recreation. The rankings compared Wisconsin standing among 354 metropolitan areas in the country. The handout is attached to these minutes.

After a number of questions from the members of the Council and the audience, Co-Chairs Risser and Rhoades thanked Dr. Hodgkinson for his excellent presentation and for taking the time to appear before the Council.

Technical difficulties prevented the taping of this Council meeting. Dr. Hodgkinson presented a similar speech later in the day to the Madison Rotary Club. Those remarks can be accessed at the Council website.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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Attachment